



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, California 94102-3688

courts.ca.gov

FACT SHEET

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Adult Collaborative Justice Courts

Collaborative justice courts are successful interventions for people involved in the criminal legal system who have behavioral health and social service needs. These courts reduce reoffending and improve participant outcomes by combining judicial supervision with rigorously monitored treatment and services in lieu of detention.

Collaborative Court Design

California is home to over 400 adult and juvenile collaborative justice court programs. These programs have dedicated calendars and judicial officers, and use a multidisciplinary, team approach with involvement from the courts from the court, attorneys, probation, law enforcement, and community-based treatment or other service providers. Placement in the type of collaborative court is based on the primary treatment or service need or resources available, and may, or may not, be signed to resolve certain types of criminal cases.¹ For example, drug and mental health courts typically take any appropriate criminal case as long as the defendant has either a substance use disorder or mental health issue. Veterans Treatment Courts are for veterans with criminal charges and behavioral health issues and typically leverage resources available to that population.

Juveniles up to the age of 18 are served through juvenile collaborative courts. They apply collaborative justice principles to combine judicial supervision with intensive social and treatment services in lieu of detention, placement, and sometimes, probation. There are over 100 juvenile collaborative courts in over 30 counties in California. Learn more about Juvenile Collaborative Courts here

<https://courts.ca.gov/programs-initiatives/collaborative-justice-courts/juvenile-collaborative-courts>.

Adult Collaborative Treatment Courts

Adult treatment courts target high risk, high need participants—participants who are assessed as having a high risk of returning to the criminal justice system and a serious or severe substance use disorder or mental illness. These courts follow an evidence-based model informed by the Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards developed by All Rise (founded as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals). Each treatment court operates in a slightly different way with varying eligibility criteria, treatment emphasis, supervision levels and other requirements, lengths, types of sanctions and incentives, services provided, and graduation criteria.

¹ Proposition 36, “The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act.” was passed by the California voters in November 2024. Among other things, it created an option for defendants with multiple drug cases to be charged with Treatment Mandated Felonies (TMF) and be offered treatment in lieu of custody. Many courts have created collaborative court like programs to process these cases; however, not all of them have all the components to consider them true collaborative courts. Future fact sheets will identify TMF courts that adhere to the collaborative court model. More information on how the courts are processing these cases can be found here: <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/legislative-reports/lr-2026-proposition-36-court-data.pdf>

The treatment court model appreciates that no one program works for everyone, and that treatment courts may not be appropriate for everyone with a substance use disorder or mental health treatment need. For example, providing too much, too little or the wrong type of treatment or service can reduce court effectiveness and fail to improve participant outcomes. Embracing the risk, need, responsivity (RNR) principle, treatment courts provide supervision and treatment based on the individual needs of each participant and incorporate service adjustments to support participant success.²

Many California courts have used the RNR principle to design alternative tracks to expand treatment court access to participants with low or moderate risk and/or need levels, and to participants with other behavioral health needs, such as intellectual and developmental disabilities. The alternative tracks provide modified supervision and services and adapt best practices and necessary and appropriate to effectively serve each participant.

Types and Number of Collaborative Justice Courts in California

California has adult collaborative courts in all but two small counties (Alpine and Colusa). The number of collaborative courts available within a county and the size of court caseloads will vary based on resource availability and limitations. Resources needed to operate a collaborative court include, but are not limited to, funding to support court and multidisciplinary team staffing, data systems necessary to monitor participant progress, treatment services and providers, and support services and basic needs—such as bus passes, clothing, and peer specialists/peer resource navigators—that are vital to ensuring equitable access, participation and completion for all participants.

The Judicial Council requests that courts self-report annually on the types of collaborative justice courts that they have available. **Table 1** shows the most numerous types of courts in California counties using broad definitions, based on self-reported information received by December 2025. As provided in the table, the most numerous types of courts in California include adult drug courts, mental health courts and veterans' treatment courts. The balance of courts includes, among others, Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (SACPA) courts and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) courts.

Table 1. California Counties with Adult Collaborative Justice Courts

Superior Court of California, County of	DRUG & SACPA	DUI	MENTAL HEALTH	REENTRY	VETERANS
Alameda	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Alpine	-	-	-	-	-
Amador	-	-	-	-	✓
Butte	✓	✓	-	-	✓
Calaveras	-	-	-	-	✓
Colusa	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Costa	-	-	✓	-	✓
Del Norte*	✓	-	-	-	✓

² More information on RNR can be accessed here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.3818/JRP.14.2.2012.47>

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Superior Court of California, County of	DRUG & SACPA	DUI	MENTAL HEALTH	REENTRY	VETERANS
El Dorado	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Fresno	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glenn	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Humboldt	✓	-	-	-	-
Imperial*	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Inyo	✓	-	-	✓	-
Kern	-	-	✓	-	✓
Kings	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Lake	-	-	-	-	✓
Lassen	✓	-	-	-	-
Los Angeles	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Madera	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Marin	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Mariposa	✓	-	✓	-	-
Mendocino	✓	-	✓	-	-
Merced	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Modoc	✓	-	-	-	-
Mono*	✓	-	-	-	-
Monterey	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Napa	✓	-	✓	-	-
Nevada	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Orange	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Placer	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Plumas	✓	-	✓	-	-
Riverside	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Sacramento	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Benito	✓	-	✓	-	✓
San Bernardino	✓	-	✓	-	✓
San Diego	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
San Francisco	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
San Joaquin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Luis Obispo	✓	-	✓	-	✓
San Mateo	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Santa Barbara	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Santa Clara	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Santa Cruz	-	-	✓	✓	✓
Shasta	✓	-	✓	-	-

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Superior Court of California, County of	DRUG & SACPA	DUI	MENTAL HEALTH	REENTRY	VETERANS
Sierra	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Siskiyou	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Solano	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Sonoma	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Stanislaus	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Sutter	✓	-	-	-	-
Tehama	✓	-	✓	-	-
Trinity	✓	-	-	-	-
Tulare	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Tuolumne	✓	-	-	-	-
Ventura	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Yolo	✓	-	✓	-	-
Yuba	✓	-	-	-	-
Total	49	14	40	13	37

**No response received in 2025. Information taken from last year's submission or publicly available information on court website.*

Contacts:

crimjusticeservices@jud.ca.gov

Additional resources:

<https://courts.ca.gov/collaborative-justice-courts>